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Note by the Secretary-General

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04-55303 (E) 221204

1. Agudas Israel World Organization

(Special consultative status granted in 1948)

AIWO, founded in Katowice, Poland, in 1912, is a 92-year-old confederation of Orthodox Jewish communities. It has a long and distinguished record in the area of international human rights, with particular emphasis on freedom of religion and matters relating to the protection and the preservation of cultural heritage and property, and education.

Activities relating to United Nations principles

Consistent with its principal objective and purpose, namely the promotion of international human rights, particularly freedom of religion, AIWO is involved in promoting religious freedom in several ways.

Reverence for the dead, including respect for burial places, is an integral tenet of the Jewish religion. Activities therefore have included efforts aimed, on the one hand, at protecting and preserving individual cemeteries threatened with destruction or desecration, and, on the other, at promoting adoption at the national level of legislation and/or executive orders proclaiming the sanctity and inviolability of cemeteries and creating structured regimes to achieve those goals. This work has entailed joint efforts with Governments directly, as well as with their ambassadors and permanent missions to the United Nations. Efforts have also been directed at the Conference on Jewish Material Claims against Germany to obtain funding for its work.

From time to time, threats arise to the right of Jewish communities to operate schools teaching Jewish culture and tradition and/or religion. Intervention has taken place with the objective of securing this right, in keeping with, and including explicit reference to, the core principles of freedom of religion and international human rights generally, contained in the Charter of the United Nations. In Baku, Azerbaijan, submissions to the Ambassador of Azerbaijan to the United Nations were handled sympathetically and sensitively, which resulted in averting the closure of a Jewish school.

The right to *shechita*, a humane method of preparing meat and poultry for human consumption, has come under question from time to time in the period under review, and efforts to resolve the question are in keeping with the principles and purposes of the United Nations, insofar as they concern freedom of religion and human rights.

Consistent with Jewish religious belief and reverence for the deceased, post-mortem examinations are considered acts of desecration and are inimical to long-standing and deeply held beliefs in Jewish law and tradition. Securing governmental sensitivity to this aspect of freedom of religion, and efforts to have this recognized in legislation and coronial practice, has, in the period under review, focused on such countries as the United Kingdom, Australia and South Africa. Those efforts included the appointment of an AIWO representative to the United Nations, as a special consultant to a fundamental review of coronial legislation in the United Kingdom, which ultimately adopted the AIWO recommendation.

As part of its mission concerning the protection of cultural heritage, AIWO has acted as international legal counsel to the United States Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad, and as international legal counsel to an international committee pursuing efforts to locate an extremely rare and priceless personal library belonging to one of the most outstanding rabbinical leaders in Poland of the era between the First and Second World Wars, which was looted by invading Nazi forces in 1939.

Activities directly related to the United Nations

- Submissions made, in the context of the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly, concerning anti-Semitism, as well as the protection of children
- Correspondence with the Secretary-General concerning the Middle East conflict
- Correspondence with the German Ambassador to the United Nations regarding foreign policy decisions of his country, and their relationship to Germany's role during its term on the Security Council
- Work with the UNESCO representative to the United Nations concerning the special needs of children and means of funding special education for them, as well as in relation to the above-mentioned efforts as international legal counsel
- Liaison and consultation with a New York City Council member who assisted in drafting a New York City Council resolution commemorating United Nations Human Rights Day
- AIWO played an important role in the work of the Caucus of Jewish NGOs at the United Nations

An important aspect of AIWO work in promoting international human rights has been its role, in the Claims Conference as well as in the World Jewish Restitution Organization and the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture, in obtaining and distributing funds for restitution, reparations and compensation for major human rights violations, specifically atrocities committed by the Nazi regime in Germany during the Holocaust, which was the catalyst for the entire human rights movement of the post-Second World War era. AIWO has emphasized seeking funding allocations for educational purposes, particularly religious education, within the context of the AIWO role in fostering freedom of religion.

Public addresses carrying the message of the United Nations mission and its objectives and purposes

AIWO has been active in delivering public addresses, focusing primarily on the objectives and purposes of the United Nations and its role and mission, specifically with regard to freedom of religion, and in the context of international human rights generally, in a number of countries on three continents.

2. Alliance for Arab Women

(Special consultative status granted in 1996)

AAW works with a network of NGOs and other organizations to provide women with basic human security by influencing policies and legislation and providing relevant services and programmes.

The following new projects are under way:

- Enhancement of employment opportunities for Egyptian women in the new millennium
- Support for Egyptian NGOs in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action
- Support of women in decision-making processes
- Comprehensive development for Egyptian women and support for women heads of households
- Sesame Street programming
- Collaboration with the resisting Violence against Women Network
- Attendance of the consultative regional meeting on the theme "Violence against women: dimensions and consequences"

AAW participated in the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly; the 2001 session of the Commission on the Status of Women; the International Conference on Volunteerism, held in Geneva in November 2001; and a Millennium Development Goals meeting held in Cairo in August 2002.

As a part of AAW interest in women's development within the context of societal development as a whole, in September 2002 AAW, with UNDP, organized two symposiums in Cairo to discuss the *Human Development Report*. In cooperation with the UNOG United Nations Centre for Human Rights, AAW organized a regional conference on the theme "Violence against women: dimensions and consequences" held in Cairo.

As the Alliance for Arab Women was the coordinator for Arab NGOs activities for the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing and for its five-year review by the General Assembly in 2000, most AAW activities are related to the Beijing Platform for Action and the Millennium Development Goals.

AAW provides services to help different categories of women gain economic independence or, in the case of women heads of households, to help provide for their families. In this context, AAW has started a project in three governorates to help women who are supporting their families gain new skills needed in their local labour markets, in order to gain and maintain job opportunities. Also through AAW support, 12 NGOs in 12 governorates have started service projects to help improve poor women's living conditions by teaching them new crafts or to engage their talents in creating products and traditional crafts; providing literary and other education; and health-care services.

AAW was the coordinator for a regional conference on violence against women held in May 2003, which resulted in the establishment of an electronic

network on violence, including a web site. In supporting women's political rights, AAW has conducted several events to raise women's awareness in suburban areas of their political rights and the importance of their role in the political arena.

AAW led a four-year campaign to support the appointment of the first woman judge in Egypt, as well as a number of other legal initiatives in support of women's rights in such areas as family law and nationality law. AAW has also produced a number of plays and films that support political participation and gender equity.

AAW provides its members with the technical skills required to conduct the above-mentioned activities. It has also provided an opportunity for 10 women to study the basics of NGO management in the United States.

In cooperation with the Flying Club in Cairo and *Al Ahrar* newspaper, AAW participated in a festival to encourage girls to enrol in non-traditional sports, such as skydiving and parachute jumping. AAW has also conducted several meetings with teenage girls, in cooperation with the catholic schools administration in Cairo.

3. Hong Kong Federation of Women

(Special consultative status granted in 2000)

The Hong Kong Federation of Women (HKFW) was founded on 28 June 1993. The Federation is a non-profit making organization whose main objectives are to unite women from all walks of life, to be concerned about the affairs of Hong Kong SAR of China, to improve and protect the lawful rights and status of women and to liaise with similar organizations around the world. Since it was established and obtained consultative status with the Economic and Social Council in 2000, the Federation has maintained an excellent relationship with the All-China Women's Federation in China.

The Federation has more than 1,000 individual members and 50 corporate members with a total membership of 100,000. Hence, the Federation is able to bring together women from various fields and geographical regions to contribute to community improvement and the development of women's affairs. The Federation also leads women associations in celebrating National Day via television broadcasting, which has become the most important and unique annual local women's event.

HKFW focuses its efforts on enhancing the condition of women, providing training classes and health programmes to women and striving to protect women's legal rights. The Federation also encourages women to participate in national and international conferences to network and exchange experiences. Special effort is made to help improve the educational, welfare and living conditions of women and children in the remote areas of China through donations and visits.

The Federation regularly organizes diversified educational courses on subjects such as personal, dynamic life skills, personal image, languages, computers, household management and parenting. To help the unemployed, within the context of economic restructuring, the Federation has organized more than 50 retraining courses and opened a computer centre, a cyber café and two new employee re-training centres during the period 2000-2003.

A motion to implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in Hong Kong SAR of China was proposed at a Legislative Council meeting by HKFW in 1993 and was unanimously passed. As a result, the Women's Commission was set up in 2000, including several members of the Federation.

As of 2003, more than 20 honorary legal consultants had been appointed to provide preliminary legal advice to women on matters of matrimony, property, inheritance and bankruptcy via hotline services. More than 5,000 clients were served during the period 2000-2003.

To encourage newly arrived children from China to learn English, the Federation has organized since 1997 a very successful English language competition project annually, with commercial sponsorship. In view of the good results, a donation was received in 2000 for the purchase of 159 sets of new computers and printers for newly arrived students from China. The Federation has also organized a series of projects since 2003 to promote youth moral education and social responsibility. In 2003, a large sum of money was donated to the "We care education fund" for the children of SARS victims.

To expand awareness about environmental issues, the Federation led corporate members in organizing tree planting projects in 2000 and 2002, and joined with the Environmental Campaign Committee to organize a competition and workshops and to publish a booklet. The Federation also promoted the "Green office" concept as a topic for training programmes for female groups from China.

In June 2000, the Federation participated in the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly.

HKFW attended an exchange meeting of the Commission on Human Rights held in Hong Kong SAR of China in February 2001. The Federation also participated as a Host Committee of the Global Summit of Women 2001, held in September 2001 in Hong Kong SAR.

HKFW maintains close links with women in China and overseas. Between 2000 and 2003, five large-scale training programmes (including lectures and visits) were especially organized for female groups from various provinces of China. The Federation also organized trips to China and met with many visitors from the United Nations, Asia, Europe, America and Africa to exchange views on various aspects of the development of women.

As of 2003, the Federation had raised and donated large sums of money for natural disaster relief, women's welfare and children's education in China. Special projects organized between 2000 and 2003 included the construction of 18 vocational training schools in various remote areas of China, thus enabling more girls in those areas to continue to study and learn working skills. In addition, the Federation organized a "Golfing for mother" fund-raising project to help mothers in China fight poverty, illiteracy and disease. The Federation also donated funds for installing water cellars in inner Mongolia to improve the poor water supply.

4. HOPE Worldwide

(Special consultative status granted in 1996)

HOPE Worldwide's mission is to bring hope to a hurting world through its programmes in more than 90 countries on all six inhabited continents. Its non-sectarian programmes serve disadvantaged children and the elderly, provide education and deliver medical services in developing communities. Through the organization's corps of more than 500 full-time employees and more than 80,000 committed volunteers, HOPE Worldwide annually serves more than two million needy people. In 2003, HOPE Worldwide programmes were supported by a global budget in excess of $30 million, which was funded through individual, corporate and governmental donors. Since the submission of the last quadrennial report, the United States Department of Agriculture, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Asian Development Bank have become the three largest institutional donors of the organization's international programmes. In addition to being a recognized non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, HOPE Worldwide is a registered private voluntary organization with USAID.

Participation in the work of the Council and other United Nations bodies

- July 2002: representatives of the organization attended the fourteenth World AIDS Conference in Barcelona, Spain.
- July 2000: representatives of the organization attended the thirteenth World AIDS Conference in Durban, South Africa, sponsored by WHO and UNAIDS. Reports by HOPE Worldwide workers on the topic of community-based outreach mechanisms were accepted for presentation at the Conference.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

- 2003: In Jamaica, HOPE Worldwide received a grant from UNICEF to produce a healthy lifestyle video for use in connection with HOPE Worldwide's Healthy Lifestyle Programme for Adolescents (10-19 years old). The focus of the programme is HIV/AIDS education and prevention.
- 2001: HOPE Worldwide participated as a partner in the United Nations International Year of the Volunteers 2001 Programme. HOPE Worldwide conducted volunteer events every month during 2001 in China, India, Cambodia, the United States, the Russian Federation, Romania, Côte d'Ivoire, Australia, Mexico and South Africa. Activities included a global blood drive, socialization activities for the elderly, tuberculosis outreach, HIV/AIDS education and prevention, medical services and care for orphans and vulnerable children.

Initiatives to support United Nations goals and objectives

- 2000-2003: HOPE Worldwide partnered with UNAIDS and UNICEF to participate in World AIDS Day events by organizing rallies and dispatching volunteers to go door-to-door with HIV/AIDS educational brochures. Canvassing activities occurred in Botswana, Cambodia, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Nigeria and South Africa.

- 2003: In Cambodia, a HOPE Worldwide physician served with representatives of WHO and UNAIDS on the oversight body for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in Cambodia.
- 2003: HOPE Worldwide is cooperating with the WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific in Manila on the issue of diabetes in Papua New Guinea. This work is being done in connection with the implementation of the WHO Western Pacific Declaration on Diabetes.
- 2000-2003: HOPE Worldwide clinics in India (Chennai and Bangalore), Indonesia (Jakarta) and Papua New Guinea (Port Moresby) administered the WHO-advocated directly observed treatment short course regimen of drugs for tuberculosis under WHO supervision.
- 2000-2003: HOPE Worldwide implemented the AIDS Prevention Museum, a visual display to educate adolescents about HIV/AIDS, in more than 45 schools in Mexico, Colombia and the south-east United States. The AIDS Museum was developed in consultation with UNAIDS and UNICEF.
- 2000-2001: HOPE Worldwide's Hong Kong SAR China affiliate provided 1,540 hours of support in 2000 and 1,092 hours of support in 2001 in connection with training programmes and workshops provided to Chinese orphanage workers through the WHO Collaborating Centre for Rehabilitation (Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation).

5. Human Lactation Center

(Special consultative status granted in 2000)

The Human Lactation Center is a non-profit corporation utilizing medical anthropology research methods with issues related to the welfare and status of women and children worldwide. For 28 years, HLC has researched breastfeeding and weaning practices, the effects of HIV in breast milk, child sexual abuse and the result of such abuse on women during their reproductive stage. HLC is also concerned with development issues. Globally, it has educated public health officials and individuals on how critical it is to support the improvement of women's social and economic well-being.

HLC is currently examining the effects of sexual abuse on the reproductive and mental health of women and children. By organizing and speaking at conferences, conducting studies and publishing research on the effects of childhood sexual abuse, we are attempting to help reshape attitudes and reverse public and professional apathy and tolerance of childhood trafficking and sexual abuse.

The Human Lactation Center actively participates in United Nations-sponsored events related to the social and economic status of women and children. HLC continues to network with other NGOs, and is a member of the NGO Committee on Mental Health and the Commission on the Status of Women.

During 2000-2003, HLC participated in numerous United Nations-related meetings and activities, including DPI/NGO meetings, conferences, briefings, panel discussions and workshops; sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women; the special session of the General Assembly on children and its preparatory process;

NGO Committee on Mental Health meetings on numerous different themes; annual observances of Human Rights Day, World Mental Health Day and International Day of Families; and numerous other related events.

The work of the Human Lactation Center contributes to the goals of the Council by furthering the current commitments of the Human Rights Commission, the Committee on the Status of Women, the NGO Committee on Mental Health, and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. HLC has worked to bring the human rights aberration of ritual abuse-torture into public awareness through conferences, speaking engagements, seminars, radio and television interviews in New York, Connecticut and Mexico. In addition, its staff is currently working with the American Academy of Pediatrics concerning training for paediatricians and their protocol for examining child rape victims.

HLC began assisting the American Friends Foundation for Childbirth Injuries in fund-raising for the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital in Ethiopia, a support system of medical professionals who surgically repair and socially rehabilitate young women so they can return to their families. Our involvement began with a United Nations DPI briefing in 2003.

In addition to working for the empowerment and the protection of women and children, HLC also promotes sustainable development by bringing into public awareness the work of the Water Stewards Network, whose work was highlighted in a DPI briefing on 16 October 2003. HLC began to encourage the establishment of local ecologically sound water treatment plants in Mexico and the United States.

6. Humane Society of the United States

(General consultative status granted in 1996)

The mission of the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) is to create a humane and sustainable world for all animals, including people. Working with diplomats, government agencies, elected officials at all levels of Government, NGOs, corporations, the media, and the public at large globally, we seek a lasting and comprehensive change in humane awareness and behaviour, from exploitation to respect and compassion for all forms of life.

Participation in the work of the Council and other United Nations bodies

2000

- Successfully lobbied for the protection of threatened species at the meeting of the Eleventh Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
- Helped prevent trade in ivory stockpiles, achieve a permanent ban on ivory trade and maintain protection for minke and gray whales and Hawksbill sea turtles
- Chaired the Species Survival Network marine fish working group and gave briefings to delegates

- Served as major group NGO organizing partner with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs at meetings of the Commission on Sustainable Development
- Coordinated participation and input of civil society groups on sustainable agriculture and rural development
- Attended meetings of the Convention on Migratory Species on negotiations for the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatross and Petrels as Australian Government advisers
- Attended the General Assembly debate on the resolution on highly migratory species
- Held consultations with United Nations missions seeking language banning the resale of illegal drift nets
- Attended the second joint meeting of the Animals and Plants Committees of CITES

2001

- Attended negotiations for the Agreement for the Conservation of Albatross and Petrels Negotiations as Australian Government advisers
- Attended the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme workshop on the South Pacific Whale Sanctuary
- Served as delegate and major group NGO organizing partner with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs at the Commission on Sustainable Development
- Coordinated participation and input of civil society groups on sustainable agriculture and rural development
- Made oral statements advocating the protection of threatened species at the seventeenth meeting of the Animals Committee of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
- Served as contact point between Government parties and NGOs
- Attended negotiations on the Convention on Migratory Species Indian Ocean South-East Asian Marine Turtle memorandum of understanding as advisers to the Australian Government
- Attended the first meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee to the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) Protocol
- Participated in the UNESCO/University of Maryland-sponsored Global Conference on Oceans and Coasts
- Participated in the preparatory process for the World Summit on Sustainable Development; was successful in ensuring ongoing protection of marine mammals and wildlife in the final Johannesburg text

2002

- Cooperated extensively with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and FAO to prepare for review of progress towards all aspects of sustainable agriculture and rural development, and food security, concluding with the launch at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, with the Director General of FAO, of the Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development Initiative
- Made statements advocating the protection of threatened species at the eighteenth meeting of the Animals Committee of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
- Served as delegate and major group NGO organizing partner with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs at the Commission on Sustainable Development
- Coordinated participation and input of civil society groups on sustainable agriculture and rural development
- Attended the Second meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife
- Served as a delegate and NGO major group focal point at the Adelboden International Conference on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development in Mountain Regions
- Served as a delegate at the FAO World Food Summit: five years later
- Participated in the 7th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species; was successful in increasing protection for six species of great whales; also negotiated a resolution towards a memorandum of understanding for the dugong
- Attended 12th meeting of the Contracting Parties of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
- Maintained protection for minke whales, Brydes whales, green sea turtles and elephants
- Increased protection for whale and basking sharks and Black Sea bottlenose dolphins
- Co-chaired the Species Survival Network marine mammal working group and chaired the Species Survival Network marine fish working group
- Attended General Assembly discussions on the law of the seas regarding marine sanctuaries and New Zealand mission discussion on protecting sea mounts
- Attended negotiations on the Convention on Migratory Species Indian Ocean South-East Asian Marine Turtle memorandum of understanding as Australian Government advisers
- Attended Council preparatory sessions and organized major group input
- Presented HSUS paper on sustainable agriculture and rural development and submitted it for publication at the meeting proceedings

- Served as delegate and organizing partner with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs at the Commission on Sustainable Development; coordinated input of civil society groups on sustainable agriculture and rural development
- Attended second meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife
- Attended the high-level segment of the Council's substantive session and facilitated major group participation of speakers on sustainable agriculture and rural development
- Participated in the preparatory committee for the Barbados Plus 10 negotiations
- Sought inclusion of protective language for wildlife and marine mammals
- Represented HSUS at the UNESCO/University of Maryland Global Conference on Oceans and Coasts and ensured marine mammal protection language in the final joint statement
- Attended the Convention on Biological Diversity as Australian Government adviser

Activities carried out in cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

- Co-sponsored FAO slaughter-training workshops to assist locals in improving techniques for worker safety, food quality and economic growth: in Cuba (November 2000), Viet Nam (February 2001) and Peru (September 2002). As the result of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and in collaboration with major groups implementing Agenda 21, FAO, the International Labour Organization and the International Fund for Agricultural Development, formulated the Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development Initiative partnership, enabling poor communities to achieve sustainable agriculture and rural development and to meet the Millennium Development Goals of reducing hunger and increasing environmental sustainability (2002-ongoing).
- Collaborated with the World Bank in South Africa for the development of a project preparation grant request for the Cape Action for People and the Environment, which was approved (2002)
- Made a contribution to a CITES technical workshop on trade in freshwater turtles and tortoises in Asia (2002)
- Completed Spanish translation of an FAO/Humane Society international humane slaughter guidelines booklet used in joint training programmes to help locals with worker safety, food quality and economic growth (2002)
- Sponsored veterinary training in Italy for Egyptian and Syrian veterinarians (2001), Turkish veterinarians (2002), and Yugoslavian veterinarians (2003) under the World Health Organization Mediterranean office programme
- Provided funding for FAO-organized diversification and upgrading of meat technology in Asia/Pacific training in the Philippines (2002-2003)

- Joined with the Pan American Health Organization in support of a conference held in Brazil on responsible pet ownership in developing countries (2003)
- Contributed to the small island developing States preparatory process to help underwrite an environmental tourism study (2003)
- Hosted and co-sponsored with FAO a working meeting of international slaughter specialists in Chile to discuss food quality, worker safety and economic growth (2003)
- Carried out a mission in Luanda with the UNDP office in Angola to assess the feasibility of biodiversity conservation projects in the Maiombe forest and capacity-building for the relevant governmental departments in Angola (2003)

Initiatives in support of overall United Nations goals and objectives

- Submitted law of the sea language on drift-netting for law of the sea annual report (2000-2001)
- Drafted legal analysis that contends that the United States can ratify the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife without taking specific reservations that would weaken it (2001)
- Organized NGO meetings of the Sustainable Development Issues Network and the Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems Caucus at the Commission on Sustainable Development; was coordinator of the Caucus and the liaison for it to the organizing network of the Sustainable Development Issues Network (2001-2003)
- Organized a coalition of NGOs and industry groups that successfully convinced the Government of the United States to ratify the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (2002)
- Participated in the open-ended consultative process on the law of the sea (2003)

7. Woods Hole Research Center

(Special consultative status granted in 1996)

The Woods Hole Research Center (WHRC), a non-governmental scientific and policy research organization, remains actively engaged in global environmental issues, particularly relating to forests and climate change. Center staff members have participated in many United Nations meetings, negotiating sessions and other exercises over the past four years. The Center plans to continue these activities, as well as to cooperate with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies as opportunities arise.

WHRC was founded in 1985 to define and defend the global human habitat, its climate, forests, soils, water and biological and functional integrity through research, education and public policy. WHRC specializes in ecological research on land use in the normally forested regions, including the Amazon basin, Eurasia, the Congo basin and North America. The work of the WHRC in science and public affairs focuses on the importance of bringing science and scientific methods to bear

on policy formulation and on the adoption of international agreements on such topics. The importance of developing country and non-governmental organization participation is emphasized in these efforts, as is support for the flow of objective data and analyses into United Nations processes.

Participation in the work of the Council and other United Nations bodies

WHRC participated at negotiating sessions, side-events, and other related activities in support of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

2000

WHRC staff members attended meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and related bodies in Bonn; Lyon, France; and The Hague. It also participated in a workshop held in Cape Town, South Africa, by the Consortium for North-South Dialogue on Climate Change; a study conducted in cooperation with UNITAR to survey capacity-building needs with regard to climate change in 30 developing countries; and the preparation of a number of publications relating to climate change.

2001

WHRC staff members attended meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and related bodies in Bonn and Marrakech, Morocco, where it participated in a number of related events. It also participated in the preparatory process for the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

2002

WHRC staff members attended meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and related bodies in Bonn and New Delhi, where it held a side event for developing countries. WHRC also participated in the World Summit on Sustainable Development and its preparatory process, including sponsoring special side-events. In August, the Deputy Director attended a World Conservation Union conference on the theme "World Summit 2002: environmental law foundations for sustainable development", in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa, and the EnviroLaw 2002 Conference in Durban, South Africa.

2003

WHRC staff members attended meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and related bodies in Milan, Italy. WHRC made a presentation at a sustainable development conference held in New Delhi on how international action on climate change and forest issues relate to the conservation of biological diversity globally. It also participated in the inauguration of the IUCN Academy of Environmental Law in Shanghai in November.

WHRC remains committed to forwarding the recommendations contained in the 1999 report of the World Commission on Forests and Sustainable Development, in particular on the idea of a "forest capital index". At the World Summit on Sustainable Development, WHRC and the World Commission on Forests and

Sustainable Development co-sponsored a parallel event in August 2002 entitled "Development of the forest capital index".

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

Just prior to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, WHRC was invited to participate in a global judges symposium on sustainable development and the role of law, which was sponsored by UNEP. The symposium convened superior court judges from 59 countries, and 20 guests and resource persons, including judges from the International Court of Justice. WHRC also provided instruction at the sixth global training programme on environmental policy analysis and law, held in Nairobi in November-December 2003.